

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A flue cleaner comprising an enclosed container having an opening providing restricted communication between the interior and exterior of the enclosed container, the enclosed container being formed of a non-combustible heat resistant material for placement in a fuel burning stove or fireplace, the interior of the enclosed container containing a sacrificial soot removal agent which is melted and then vaporized when heated by the fire in the stove or fireplace so as to generate cleaning vapors, ~~said enclosed container being configured so as to prevent the flow of said fuel therethrough and so as to prevent any contact between said fuel and said soot removal agent in its solid or melted forms~~, said enclosed container and said opening being sized and shaped to exhaust said vapors from said enclosed container so as to clean the flue of the stove or fireplace.

2. (Previously Presented) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container is formed of metal.

3. (Previously Presented) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container is formed of steel.

4. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the opening is closed by a closure formed of a material which will be consumed slowly upon the flue cleaner being placed in a fire.

5. (Previously Presented) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is encased within the enclosed container within a settable composition which will harden once being introduced into the enclosed container and which will be consumed slowly upon the flue cleaner being placed in a fire.

6. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 5 wherein the composition comprises a mixture of sawdust and a binding agent.

7. (Previously Amended) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 6 wherein the composition controls and restricts the consumption of the soot removal agent when the flue cleaner is placed in a fire.

8. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is selected from zinc, tin, aluminum or any combination thereof.

9. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is coated on a substrate.

10. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 9 wherein the substrate comprises a metal foil and/or sheeting.

11. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent comprises a quantity of particles and/or granules of the soot removal agent.

12. (Previously Presented) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is formed as a single body.

13. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 12 wherein the soot removal agent is formed as an ingot.

14. (Previously Presented) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container comprises a length of tube, at least one end of the tube being open.

15. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 14 said at least one end being

partially closed.

16. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 15 said at least one end being partially closed by an inwardly directed flange to define the opening.

17. (Previously Amended) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 22 wherein the tube has a substantially elliptical cross-section and each end is provided with a dumbbell or "figure-8" profile.

18. (Previously Presented) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein said soot removing agent generates soot removing vapors when subjected to heat to clear soot and residue; and

wherein said opening is sized and shaped to restrict the release of said vapors to render the flue cleaner effective for an extended period of time.

19. (Currently Amended) A flue cleaner comprising a containment vessel arranged and constructed for placement in a fuel burning stove or fireplace and having an opening providing restricted communication between the interior and exterior of the vessel, the vessel being formed of a non-combustible heat resistant material, the interior

of the enclosed container containing a sacrificial soot removal agent which is melted and then vaporized when said container is placed in the fire so as to generate soot removing vapors;

wherein the vessel comprises a length of tube, at least one end of the tube being partially closed by an inwardly directed flange to define the opening, said opening releasing said vapors from said containment vessel so as to clean the flue of the stove or fireplace;

~~— and wherein the vessel is configured so as to prevent the flow of said fuel therethrough and so as to prevent any contact between said fuel and said soot removal agent in its solid or melted forms.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A flue cleaner for cleaning the flue or chimney of a fuel burning stove or fireplace while a fire is burning therein, said flue cleaner comprising:

an enclosed container forming a containment vessel made of a non-combustible heat resistant material; and

a sacrificial soot removing agent which is melted and then vaporized when subjected to heat so as to generate soot removing vapors to clear soot and residue from the flue or chimney of the stove or fireplace;

~~wherein said containment vessel is configured so as to prevent the flow of~~

~~said fuel therethrough and so as to prevent any contact between said fuel and said soot removal agent in its solid or melted forms; and~~

wherein said containment vessel has opening means sized and shaped to release said vapors from said containment vessel in a restricted manner to render the flue cleaner effective for an extended period of time when said enclosed container is disposed in the stove or fireplace.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of cleaning a flue or chimney of a combustion chamber comprising:

starting a fire in said combustion chamber, said fire generating combustion gases that are exhausted through said chimney or flue; and

providing in said combustion chamber an enclosed container including a soot removing agent and having an opening, wherein said fire causes said soot removing agent to generate soot removing vapors that are exhausted from said combustion chamber through said opening, said vapors mixing with said combustion gases and flowing through said flue or chimney to remove soot therefrom.

22. (Previously Presented) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 15 wherein the at least one end is closed by crimping the at least one end.